

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059890
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07
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SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 INT-05
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COMMERCE:EFOREM
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT:INDUSTRY COMMITTEE: PROPOSED STEEL STUDY

- - -

REF: OECD 7954

1. FYI WE BELIEVE THAT OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE IS THE WRONG
FORUM WITH POTENTIALLY THE WRONG REPRESENTATION TO
ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES IN A MULTILATERAL DISCUSSION OF
STEEL SITUATION. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT A DISCUSSION ON STEEL
IN THE OECD WOULD MOST USEFULLY CENTER ON THE TRADE
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ASPECTS OF CURRENT STEEL SITUATION AND PARTICULARLY
JAPANESE CONDUCT ON THIRD MARKETS. WE HAVE RAISED THE
POSSIBILITY OF AN OECD MEETING WITH THE EC AND JAPAN WHO
HAVE NOT UP UNTIL NOW BEEN OVERLY RECEPTIVE. OUR IDEA IS
FOR AN AD-HOC GROUP OF THE COUNCIL WHICH WOULD BE ATTENDED
BY SENIOR LEVEL OFFICIALS. WE ARE NOW AT STAGE IN OUR
OWN PLANNING WHERE WE WILL PROPOSE WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR

10 DAYS THAT SUCH A MEETING BE HELD SOON. END FYI.

2. IF YOU ARE UNABLE IN INFORMAL TALKS WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO POSTPONE A DECISION ON HIS PROPOSAL, YOU SHOULD TAKE POSITION AT THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING THAT DISCUSSIONS HAVE AND WILL AGAIN SHORTLY TAKE PLACE AMONG THE

EC, JAPAN AND THE U.S. REGARDING HOW TO HANDLE THE STEEL ISSUE MULTILATERALLY WITH OUR PREFERENCE BEING DISCUSSIONS INITIALLY IN THE OECD. WE ARE NOT, THEREFORE, PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO TAKE A POSITION ON ESTABLISHING A GROUP IN THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AND BELIEVE IT IS PREMATURE TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL INDUSTRY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER SETTING UP SUCH A GROUP. OTHER ISSUES BEYOND THE COMPETENCE OF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE ARE INVOLVED AND A DECISION TO SET UP INDUSTRY GROUP MIGHT LIMIT OR INTERFERE WITH OTHER POSSIBILITIES U.S. HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN OECD ON STEEL. WE REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE AT THIS TIME TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL SINCE WE SHARE THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERN OVER CURRENT TRENDS IN THE WORLDWIDE STEEL SITUATION AND APPRECIATE THE POTENTIAL ROLE THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE CAN MAKE IN SUCH AN EXAMINATION OF THE INDUSTRY'S PROBLEMS. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE RETURN TO THIS SUBJECT AT A LATER DATE AFTER GOVERNMENTS HAVE MORE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE PROPOSAL AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POSSIBLE INITIATIVES.

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3. IF THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INCLINED TO ACT FAVORABLY ON THE CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO AGREE TO U.S. ATTENDANCE AND WILL HAVE TO SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE.
CHRISTOPHER

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